

Education

New England Law School, J.D., Boston, MA
(2005)

Macalester College, B.A. Journalism and
Comm., St. Paul, MN (1991)

Selected Professional Experience

Deputy CEO & General Counsel, Gov't Affairs
& Public Policy Div., MA League of
Community Health Ctrs.
(2008-Present)

Senior Policy Advisor, Corporate Affairs
Division, Blue Cross Blue Shield of
Massachusetts (1998-2008); previous
positions in IT, Audit, Customer Service.

Suffolk University, Moakley Center for Public
Mgmt, Adjunct Professor (2017-present)

Co-founder, Afrocentric Productions (artist
management, event production), Boston
(1998-2006)

Founder & CEO, Boston Agenda Consultants
(speakers' bureau), (91-96)

Certifications, Licenses

Member of the Massachusetts BAR

Graduate of the Executive Leadership
Council's (ELC) Institute for Leadership
Development & Research; *Strengthening the
Pipeline* (Oct. 2005), a national program
aimed at training and developing high
potential, African American business
executives.

Diversity Trainer, certified by Anti-
Defamation League (1996), conducted
trainings for over 1,000 people in both public
and private sector.

Honors, Awards, and Speeches

New England Law Boston, Program
Commencement Speaker (2020)

Dunkin Brands, Diversity Equity & Inclusion,
Coordinator & Keynote Speaker (2020)

Arlington MA Dialogue on Racism,
Moderator (2020)

Public Health Mgmt. Corporation (PHMC),
Philadelphia, PA, DEI Discussion Series (2020)

New Haven Healthy Start Meeting, *Racial
Health Disparities*, Keynote (2020)

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center,
Staff Diversity, Keynote (2020)

Dept. of Youth Services (DYS), Presentation

MICHAEL A. CURRY, ESQ.

National NAACP Board of Directors
Deputy CEO & GC, MA League of Community Health
Ctrs



Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley once described Attorney Michael Curry as, *"An advocate for the people whose work has taken him from Blue Hill Avenue (in Roxbury, Mass) to Beacon Hill (Mass State Legislature) to Capitol Hill (U.S. Congress)."* In his various roles, there are recurring themes—a commitment to social justice and health equity, as well as a pursuit of justice and the elimination of racism.

Born and raised by a single mother in Lenox Street Housing Projects and a product of the Boston Public Schools, Michael's life experiences provided the motivation for his over 30 years of work in civil rights. From his leadership of the Black Student Union on the campus of Macalester College in St. Paul, MN in 1989, where he successfully led an effort with the Dean of Admissions to recruit more students of color, to his return to Roxbury in 1992 to lead the Million Man March Mobilization Committee (1995), he has embodied the W.E.B. DuBois quote, "Nothing can be solved that can't be faced." He was recruited in 1997 to join the Boston NAACP's leadership team, where he led Communications and Political Action, and was often designated by the President to serve as the official spokesperson on high-profile issues.

In November 2010, Michael Curry was elected President of the Boston NAACP, the nation's first chartered branch, established in 1911. The election was the highest turnout of voters in the branch's history with over 600 members. During Mr. Curry's tenure, more than 7,000 new members joined the branch, monthly membership meetings were at capacity and a younger generation of leaders became active in the organization. He successfully executed a strategy to strengthen the influence and voice of the NAACP in the Greater Boston area by rebuilding partnerships and reengaging city officials. Described by the Boston Business Journal as a "Straight Talker", Michael focused intently in the area of diversity and urged the public and private sector to wipe out the taint of race, and to finally embrace a more diverse workforce. Under his leadership, the branch launched an annual discrimination training, in collaboration with several investigative and enforcement agencies. The Boston NAACP served as a leader on many of the critical issues impacting communities of color, such as racial profiling, health disparities, the decline of Black businesses, poverty, youth violence, workforce development and inequities in education. Michael launched the inaugural Boston NAACP's *"Summer Job – Pipeline to Leadership Program,"* where 40 youth each summer received a stipend to work for the NAACP. Over 140 young people participated in community meetings, received leadership training, and registered thousands of new voters. In 2013, the Boston NAACP received the Chairman's Trophy for the highest membership increase in the country (2011-2012) and the Lucille Black Award for the highest total membership production (2012). Attorney Curry was elected President in 2010, 2012 and 2014, serving three terms.



In 2013, then National NAACP Chairman Roslyn Brock asked Michael to consider running for the National NAACP Board of Directors, as an at-large candidate. Chairman Brock said, *"Mr. Curry represents the next generation of NAACP leadership that will continue to advance our (then) 105-year-old association in this fight for social justice."* He was soon after elected by the over 2,200 NAACP Units, representing over 500,000 members, across the country to serve on the National NAACP's Board of Directors, and reelected in 2016 and 2019. The 64-Member board, now chaired by Leon Russell, is the governing body of the Association, which has hosted many of the architects of the Civil Rights movement since its creation in 1909. At his election in 2014, Michael was the

to Youth in State Custody (2020)

Conversations: Leadership Diversity (CLD),
Leadership in Times of Injustice (2020)

MA Senator Ed Markey, Anti-racism Training
for Campaign Staff (2020); and panelist on
Virtual National Dialogue on Race (2020)

MA Congressman Joe Kennedy, Virtual
National Discussion on Race (2020)

Recipient of the Lemuel Shattuck Award,
Mass Public Health Association (2020)

BNY Mellon, Speaker on Racial Bias (2020)

Boston Medical Center HealthNet Plan, Panel
Discussion on Policing (2020)

Temple Beth Elohim, Racial Justice Inst. (RJI),
Speaker on Reparations for Slavery (2020)

Massachusetts Department of Revenue,
Black History Month, Guest Speaker (2020)

Vertex Pharmaceuticals' VIBE, Black History
Month Guest Speaker (2020)

Annual MLK Celebration, Stoughton Clergy
Association & Stoughton Public Schools,
Keynote Speaker (2020)

32nd Annual MLK Observance, Arlington, MA,
Keynote Speaker (2020)

Suffolk County House of Corrections, HiSet
(GED) Cert Commencement Speaker (2019)

Parenting Journey, Social & Family Justice
Institute Conference, panelist (2019)

Homegoing Service for Mayor Bill Carpenter,
Brockton, MA (2019), Speaker

Brockton NAACP Mayoral Candidates' Forum,
Panelist (2019)

Recognized as one of Greater Boston's 50
Most Influential Attorneys of Color

Harvard Medical School, Translating Evidence
into Policy, Panelist (2019)

Partners Health Care, Inc., Corporate
Member (2019)

Jack and Jill of American Town Hall, Gun
Control: Politics, Policy, or Personal (2019),
Moderator

Suffolk University, Moakley Center for Public
Mgmt. Graduation, Commencement Speaker
(2018)

Somerville Center for Adult Learning

first representative from the Boston and New England Area to serve on the National Board in over 35 years. Prior to Curry, Lynn, Massachusetts native Vernon K. Sport, a Tuskegee Airman and President of the New England Area Conference of the NAACP, was elected to the National Board and resigned in 1975. Prior to Sport, Kivie Kaplan, a well-known Boston businessman and Jewish philanthropist was elected to the National Board in 1954, and in 1966 was elected President of the National Board where he served until his death in 1975. *"One of my fondest memories in serving on the National NAACP Board of Directors is sitting next to Julian Bond, former Chairman of the board and co-founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), during our interviews and selection of the Association's next President & CEO,"* says Curry. *"I had met him some 25 years earlier on a college campus in St. Paul, Minnesota, and then had an opportunity to sit next to him as his colleague, and soak up three hours of lived history."*

Shortly after Attorney Curry's election to the board in 2014, he was appointed to key committees and posts, including Vice-Chair of both the Economic Development and Political Action & Legislation Committees, with a seat on the following:

- Legal Committee
- Image Awards Committee
- Constitution Review Sub-Committee
- Convention Planning Committee

His academic training and professional experience quickly made him a critical voice on the National Board, and resulted in his being appointed to the 17-member Executive Committee and Chairmanship of the board's Advocacy & Policy Committee, which provides oversight of the Association's Policy and Program committees. He has also been called upon to lead and serve on various ad hoc committees and task forces, like the Education Quality and Charter School Task Force (2017) and Chairman of the Image Awards Ticketing Task Force (2017-2019). In 2019, Michael successfully campaigned to secure Boston as the location for the 2020 National NAACP Convention (moved online due to COVID-19). Notably, in 2018 he co-founded the National NAACP's Young Professional Next Generation Leadership Training Program, preparing the Association's future leaders, ages 21-35 from every state in the nation. The program has now raised over \$2 million and graduated its inaugural class of 74 "NextGeners" in 2019, followed by 130 graduates in 2020 and over 250 students currently in the class of 2021. Michael helped to develop the curriculum and serves as an instructor. In December 2019, Michael was reelected to a 3rd term on the National Board.

"If your not AT the table, you're on the table or on the menu!" -Mike Curry



Michael also serves as Deputy CEO and General Counsel for the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers. In his previous role, as Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and Public Policy for the Mass League, Michael led local, state and federal affairs and public policy for the 52 community health centers throughout Massachusetts, serving over 1 million patients out of 314 practice sites. Based on his work, he has been recognized locally and nationally for his leadership in health care policy and frequently requested as a panelist on the issue of Massachusetts and National Health Reform. Prior, Michael served as Senior Policy Advisor for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts, where he worked on the passage of the 2006 landmark Massachusetts Health Care Reform law, as well as initiatives aimed at ending health disparities. He also has over 20 years of experience in community relations, public affairs and internal communications. In 2017, he was invited to join the staff of Suffolk University as a part-time professor in the Moakley Center for Public Management Certificate Program (2017-present).

Experience Grad., Commencement Speaker
(2018)

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Ctr. MLK
Celebration, Keynote (2018)

Fontbonne Academy, Keynote Speaker
(2018)

Macalester College's Catharine Lealtad
Service to Society Award (June 2017)

Portraits of Purpose Book, featured Social
Justice Activist (2016), Don West

Recognized by City of Boston for Service to
Community (2017)

Massachusetts Advocates for Children
Lifetime Achievement Honoree (2016)

Greater Boston Association of Black Social
Workers, Inc., Community Service Awardee
(2016)

Boston City Council Resolution Recognizing
Service (2016)

Community Leaders Award, Greater Boston
Association of Black Social Workers (2016)

Vision Award, John D. O'Bryant African
American Institute, Northeastern University
(2016)

Identified in the GetConnected (GK)100's 100
Most Influential Leaders of Color in Boston
(2016)

Leadership Award, Harvard Street
Neighborhood Health Center (2015)

Service Award, Northeastern Province of
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity (2015)

Panelist – Anti-Defamation League, Next
Steps After Ferguson (2015)

Leadership Award, National Forum for Black
Public Administrators, Boston (2014)

Speaker – I, Too, Am Harvard 2014
Blacktivism Conference, Harvard (2014)

Panelist – Amnesty International, Campaign
to End Gun Violence (2014)

My Brother's Keeper, City of Boston,
Committee Member (2014-2015)

Betsey K. Cooke Advocacy MVP Award,
National Association for Community Health
Centers (2013)

Faculty, The Kraft Center Health Policy
Immersion Program (2012-2015)

Keynote Speaker – Malcolm X Breakfast,
Black Community Information Center, Boston
(2013)

"Young Civic Leaders Award" (2013)

Keynote Speaker, Drug Enforcement Agency

Mr. Curry is a product of busing and vividly recalls riding the school buses in the early 1970s from Roxbury to Charlestown in Boston, as white protesters and the Boston Police lined the streets and rocks pelted the bus. He grew up in a racially divided Boston and witnessed the NAACP's efforts to address systemic racism and eliminate the many forms of discrimination. That work continues today.



Michael was raised by a single mother in Boston's Lenox Street Housing Projects and then on Quincy Street in Roxbury—both communities overwhelmed by drugs, gangs, poverty and unemployment in the 1970s through the 1990's. His mother worked as a housekeeper, and his older, teenage sister became his primary caretaker. She would eventually become consumed by the gang violence, substance use and prostitution, and Michael and his younger sister became pre-teen, latchkey kids. They would eventually become teen, surrogate parents for their older sister's kids, as she continued to battle addiction.

In May 2016, the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) invited him back to Lenox Street to announce Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding aimed at sealing CORI records, removing barriers to public housing and reconnecting families. He talked about the impact of racism in communities like his where opportunities were few and too many men fell victim to city abuse, neglect, as well as police misconduct and mass incarceration. He described the nation's increased recognition of the injustices in the criminal justice system and the instances of unjustified police use of force as "*truth catching up to history*".



Attorney Curry lost two nephews to violence in Boston, as well as many cousins from Tuscaloosa, Alabama to Baltimore, Maryland to Rochester, New York. He has therefore made it his mission to address the underlying factors that contribute to violence in the Black community, which he refers to as the "*social determinants of violence*" (e.g., self-hatred, poverty, unemployment, broken homes, systemic racism).

In 2016, Michael was hired to play William Monroe Trotter, the African American newspaper editor and activist, in a documentary film entitled, **Birth of a Movement – The Battle Against America's First Blockbuster**. William Monroe Trotter, the nearly forgotten editor of a Boston Black newspaper The

Guardian, helped launch a nationwide **movement** in 1915 to ban Hollywood's first blockbuster movie, the controversial, silent film entitled **The Birth of a Nation** by D.W. Griffith. The film aired in February 2017 and has been viewed by over 2 million people. Michael now travels the country with the film company, speaking to the film's importance for understanding the history of race in America and the vestiges of cinematized racist propaganda today. For more information: <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/films/birth-of-a-movement/> To view the film, go to:

75min version: <https://vimeo.com/202233272/d3417e26cc>

54min version: <https://vimeo.com/193699600> PW: **Trotter**

The film has also been adapted to a socially relevant social studies high school curriculum with the Boston Public Schools. Michael contributes as a subject matter expert. www.birtofamovementfilm.com



On March 6, 2019, Michael also participated in a television series, produced by Radical Media on behalf of National Geographic in partnership with Global Citizen dealing with issues connected to poverty around the world, including how the U.S. criminal justice system perpetuates a cycle of poverty and is biased against people of color. The series aired in the Summer of 2019 in 172 countries, reaching over 463 million households. He is also an annual host and guest

(DEA) and Blacks in Government Annual Event, Massachusetts (February, 2013)

Angel of Mercy Award, Ebenezer Baptist Church (2012)

Collaborative Spirit Award, Young Black Women's Society (2011)

Citizen of The Year Award, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc, Iota Chi Chapter (2007)

The Black Pages of New England's 100 Most Influential People of African Descent (2007 Edition).

Community Service Award, Action for Boston Community Dev. (2005)

Top 60 graduates of Massachusetts Boy's State Program (2005)

Philanthropy and Advocacy

MLCHC and Massachusetts General Brigham (MGB) Collaborative, Leadership (2020)

Appointed by Mayor Sullivan, Brockton MA Community Justice Task Force (2020)

City of Boston, Mayor's Reopening Advisory Board (2020)

Appointed by Massachusetts Senate to Health Equity Task Force (2020), Co-Chair

City of Boston, COVID-19 Health Inequities Task Force (2020)

Department of Public Health, Health Equity Advisory Group (2020)

Massachusetts Health Council, Health Policy Committee, Co-Chair (2020)

National Association of Community Health Center, Legislative Committee (2020)

Corporate Member, Partners HealthCare System, Inc. (2019)

National NAACP Board of Directors, Director. Committees: Chair, Advocacy & Policy; Vice-Chair PAC and Legislation; Legal; Image Awards; Convention; and Constitution Review Sub (2014 - present)

Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee, Member (2016)

City of Boston Compensation Advisory Board, Member (2014 - present)

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh's Public Health Task Force (2013 - Jan. 2014)

Schwartz Center for Compassionate Health Care's Thought Leadership Committee (2014)

United Negro College Fund, Leadership Council, Member (2014 - present)

Roxbury Community College, Vice-Chair; Chair, RCC Investigation Committee

speaker for the international fellows in the German Marshall Fund, providing an annual lecture on "Race in America", as well as an annual "Celebrity Chef" for Codman Square Health Center's Men of Boston Cook for Women's Health.

Michael credits his accomplishments to having a strong, Black mother from Greensboro, Alabama, who grounded him in his Christian faith at Ebenezer Baptist Church and Charles Street A.M.E. Church. In addition, he recognizes his education at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he served as President as the Black Liberation Affairs Committee as a turning point in his life. *"It was on that campus that I met Professor Mahmoud El-Kati, who introduced all of us to history, and instilled in us a sense of pride and purpose that continues to drive me today. I know why I'm here, thanks to him."*



He is a frequent Political Commentator on WBUR's Radio Boston, Morning Edition and Week in Review, Boston Public Radio WGBH with Jim Braude and Margery Eagan, WGBH's Greater Boston, and New England Cable News, as well as frequently requested to provide reactions to breaking news, presidential and mayoral debates, and state of the union/city addresses.

Michael is currently working to finish two books in 2021. His first published work will deal with Mental Health in the Black Community, highlighting the unique challenges faced by African Americans with gaining accessing access to high quality, culturally competent behavioral health and substance use services. The book underscores the generational impact of racism and untreated trauma that is manifested in urban violence, chronic unemployment, achievement gaps, addictions and poverty. The second book provides his reflections as a civil rights activist out of Generation X, following the sacrifice and service of the Freedom Fighters of the Modern Civil Rights Movement. He explores the politics, internal (inter and intra-racial) battles, ideological divides and generational conflicts that often prevent unity and diminish the potential effectiveness of the advocacy—then and now.



Based on his close to 30 years of experience in health care and insurance, combined with his advocacy on the issues of health equity and racial disparities, Michael is working on various aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic. He serves on both the City of Boston's COVID-19 Health Inequities Task Force, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) COVID-19 Health Equity Advisory Group and the Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA)'s Health Equity Task Force. The Massachusetts Senate appointed him to a Health Equity Task Force, created under legislation. He is responsible for coordinating the community health center response to the public health crisis, working with the state's Attorney General's Office (AGO), Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), various municipalities, and Partners in Health. Michael was also recently appointed to the Mayor of Boston's Reopening Advisory Group.

After the murders of Ahmaud Arbery in Brunswick, Georgia, George Floyd in Minneapolis, MN and Breonna Taylor in Louisville, KY, Attorney Curry is frequently called upon to provide local and national commentary on the legal, political and social issues involved in each of the cases. Most recently, Michael was a guest panelist of Congressman Joseph Kennedy to discuss the racism in America and the civil unrest currently gripping cities.

<https://www.facebook.com/JoeKennedyIII/videos/642736759656577/>

(investigated allegations of state and federal violations); Chair, Legal & Audit Committee (2012 - present)

Higher Ground, Board of Directors (2012 – 2014)

Kids Count, Advisory Board, Chair (2015)

Boston Public School Quality Working Group (SQWG), Member (2014)

Massachusetts Nonprofit Network, Board of Directors, Member (2014-present)

Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, Board of Directors (2013 -present)

Former Board Chairman, Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center (2010)

Mayor of Brockton's Transition Task Force, Member (2009)

Brockton Redevelopment Authority (MA), Vice Chair (2009-2011)

NAACP: Leadership 500, presenter; Image Awards Committee, Member.

Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI)
Citizens Academy, Graduate (2005)

Black Men Speak

Reflections on Racism in America

Where do we go from here?

Moderated by:
Michael Curry, Esq.
National NAACP Board of Directors
Chairman, National NAACP Advocacy & Policy Committee

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2020
1:00pm to 4:00pm EST

Invited...

William Rodrick II
Associate Pastor,
The Historic Twelfth Baptist Church

Steven W. Tompkins
Suffolk County Sheriff

Abigail Forester
Executive Director,
Teen Empowerment

Ismael Paris-Juliano
Executive Director,
Klug Center for Economic Justice

Coman Harris
Former Executive Director of My Brother's Keeper

Kevin Williams
Arrested and later released for a crime he didn't commit

Dorell Jones
After 32 yrs in prison after his trial decision was vacated

Pastor Ricky Grant Jr
Community Engagement,
Suffolk County DA's Office

William Gross
City of Boston's first African American Commissioner, and over 33-year veteran of the Boston Police Department

Dana Supreme Richardson
Supreme Entertainment, Former 3rd VP of the Boston NAACP

Paul Francisco
Chief Diversity Officer and Head of Workforce Dev. Programs at State Street Corporation

Thaddeus Miles
Author and Internationally Recognized and Award-Winning Photographer

Atty. Rahnman Hall
Director of the Racial Justice Program for the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts

Atty. Joseph D. Foster
Former President of the Boston NAACP (1979-1982)

Sogen Idowu
Executive Director, Black Economic Council of Massachusetts

...and others

Join us online
<https://www.facebook.com/RoxburyCommunityCollege/> • <https://www.youtube.com/user/RoxCommCollege>
for this long overdue conversation with brothers!

Sponsors: The Boston Foundation, Fidelity, Blue Cross of Massachusetts, United Way, New England Black Alumni Fellowship, WGBH

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